Key Risk and Protective Factors by the Six Domains[Excerpted from Here's Proof Prevention Works: Understanding Substance Abuse Prevention Toward the 21st Century, Background Information. DHHS publication no. (SMA) 99-3300, Printed 1999)]

Domain	Protective Factors	Risk Factors
Individual	· Positive personal characteristics, including	· Inadequate life skills.
	Social skills and social responsiveness; cooperativeness; emotional stability; positive sense of self; flexibility; problem-solving skills; and low levels of defensiveness.	Lack of self-control, assertiveness, and peer-refusal skills. Low self-esteem and self-confidence.
	· Bonding to societal institutions and values, including	· Emotional and psychological problems.
	Attachment to parents and extended family:	· Favorable attitudes toward substance use.
	Attachment to parents and extended family; commitment to school; regular involvement with religious institutions; and belief in society's	· Rejection of commonly held values and religion.
	values.	· School failure.
	· Social and emotional competence, including	· Lack of school bonding.
	Good communication skills; responsiveness; empathy; caring; sense of humor; inclination toward pro-social behavior; problem-solving skills; sense of autonomy; sense of purpose and of the future (e.g., goal-directedness); and self-discipline.	·Early antisocial behavior, such as lying, stealing, and aggression, particularly in boys, often combined with shyness or hyperactivity.
Family	· Positive bonding among family members.	· Family conflict and domestic violence.
	· Parenting that includes	· Family disorganization.
	High levels of warmth and avoidance of severe criticism; sense of basic trust; high parental	· Lack of family cohesion.
	expectations; and clear and consistent expectations, including children's participation in	·Social isolation of family.
	family decisions and responsibilities.	· Heightened family stress.
	· An emotionally supportive parental/family milieu, including	·Family attitudes favorable to drug use.
	Parental attention to children's interests; orderly and structured parent-child relationships; and parent involvement in homework and school-related activities.	·Ambiguous, lax, or inconsistent rules and sanctions regarding substance use.
		· Poor child supervision and discipline.
		·Unrealistic expectations for development.

Domain	Protective Factors	Risk Factors
Peer	· Association with peers who are involved in school, recreation, service, religion, or other organized activities.	 Association with delinquent peers w ho use or value dangerous substances. Association with peers who reject mainstream activities or pursuits. Susceptibility to negative peer pressure.
		· Strong external locus of control.
School	 Caring and support; sense of "community" in classroom and school High expectations from school personnel. Clear standards and rules for appropriate behavior. Youth participation, involvement, and 	 Ambiguous, lax, or inconsistent rules and sanctions regarding drug use and student conduct. Favorable staff and student attitudes toward substance use. Harsh or arbitrary student management practices.
	responsibility in school tasks and decisions.	Availability of dangerous substances on school premises. Lack of school bonding.
Community	· Caring and support.	· Community disorganization.
	· High expectations of youth.	· Lack of community bonding.
	· Opportunities for youth participation in community activities.	 Lack of cultural pride. lack of competence in majority culture. Community attitudes favorable to drug use. Ready availability of dangerous substances. Inadequate youth services and opportunities for pro-social involvement.
Society	 Media literacy (resistance to pro-use messages). Decreased accessibility. Increased pricing through taxation. Raised purchasing age and enforcement. Stricter driving-while-under-the-influence laws. 	 Impoverishment. Unemployment and underemployment. Discrimination. Pro-drug-use messages in the media.